GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2917
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2007
BONUS POINTS ON AIR MILEAGE
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain airlines, including Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI) are offering bonus points on air-mileage in respect of the journeys performed by their respective airlines;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes and the amount spent by IA and AI during the last three years on such schemes alone year-wise;

(c) whether certain officers whose air Journeys are paid for by their respective departments, are separately redeeming the mileage-points accrued to them under the scheme by virtue of their official air travels for free gifts and personal air journeys or trading the benefits with others for some consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the rules under which it is permissible; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government against officials violating the rules?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir, passengers can earn bonus/additional points on air mileage through short term promotional bonus schemes launched from time to time (on specific Sectors/ Flights) on becoming members of the premium club i.e. Golden Edge Club and Silver Edge Club on specific NACIL-I/A designated flights and one time bonus of 500 mileage points on registering for e - mileage statement. The details of bonus points offered on air-mileage during the past three years are:- (i) Double Bonus points for travel between 1.8.07 and 30.11.07 travelling on the non-stop flight on sector Mumbai-New York-Mumbai; (ii) Bonus and discounted redemption on select sectors for members of the US, Gulf and SEA Programme from 15.9.07 to 30.11.07; (iii) Silver Edge Club/Golden Edge Club - 10%/25% extra mileage point bonus over and above normal accruals (depending on the class of travel) on Air India-Indian Airlines designated flights on domestic and SAARC sectors; (iv) Opting for membership for Airlines-AMEX Gold Co-Brand Card and one time clock bonus.

The accounts are credited with the additional bonus mileage points, which the members can exchange for award tickets only after crossing a prescribed threshold limit. The crediting of bonus mileage points into members account is done without any additional expenses.

(c), (d), (e): Government servants are permitted to accept benefits of `Frequent Flier Programme` & Flying Returns Programmes` of all Airlines and `Free Companion Tickets or variations thereof, on travel with National Carriers as per instructions contained in Government of India OM NO.11013/2/99-Estt.(A) dated 05.03.97, OM NO.11013/2/97-Estt.(A) dated 19.8.97 and OM NO.11013/2/97-Estt.(A) dated 15.9.98 issued by the Department of Personnel and Training.